

## Did you know...



Reading books together can open the door to new countries, new foods, new traditions, and new languages. Explore the world while sitting on your couch. Read as a family! If your home language isn't English, it's important to speak, read, and sing to your child in the language you speak at home.

Every April there is a celebration of children and reading, El día de los niños/ El día de los libros. Author Pat Mora, one of the founders of "Día," says, "April 30th has become a day for remembering the power of words and books in the lives of our young people and for honoring all the languages spoken in the homes of this country."

Ask your librarian about special events or programs planned for El día de los niños/ El día de los libros.

## Here's how...



- ✦ Check out a variety of books from your local public library.
- ✦ Listen to music or watch videos from different cultures.
- ✦ Attend local cultural events in your community so your child can experience new food, new music, or new dancing. It is especially meaningful to attend events that reflect your family's heritage.
- ✦ Make a special food to eat for a meal that is from a country from your family history. Example: make German pancakes for dinner. Talk about the difference between those and the pancakes you usually make.

## Read



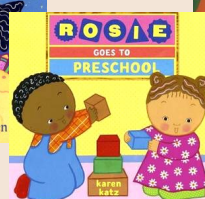
### ***Can you Say Peace?***

**By Karen Katz**

Celebrate the diversity of children throughout the world with your child. You will visit preschoolers in China, Mexico, India and other countries-all doing similar things like going to school, taking a walk, and playing.



More books by Karen Katz:



## Choosing Books



### **Celebrating Children and Diversity:**

*Book Fiesta*, by Pat Mora

*Elizabeti's Doll*, by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

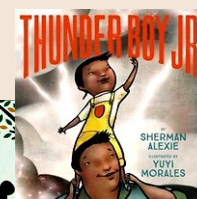
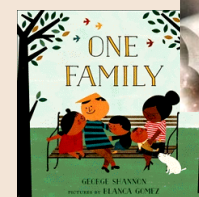
*Everybody Cooks Rice*, by Norah Dooley

*Hairs/Pelitos*, by Sandra Cisneros

*On Mother's Lap*, by Ann Herbert Scott

*One Family*, by George Shannon

*Thunder Boy Jr.*, by Sherman Alexie



## Talk



Talk to your child in the language that is most comfortable for you. Tell her stories about your childhood, share favorite memories, talk about the games you used to play when you were a child. Use lot of describing words!

## Write



Write a note to your child telling him all the things you love about him or things he does well, and help him read it. Encourage him to write a similar letter to a family member or friend.

## Play



### Will You Be a Friend of Mine?

*(To the tune of London Bridge Is Falling Down)*

Choose two people to face each other with hands clasped together to make a bridge. The others walk under the bridge as you sing the first verse and continue circling around:

Will you be a friend of mine?  
Friend of mine, friend of mine?  
Will you be a friend of mine,  
And play with me today?

On the second verse, bring hands down around person who is currently under the “bridge,” and sing:

Yes, I'll be a friend of yours,  
Friend of yours, friend of yours.  
Yes, I'll be a friend of yours,  
And play with you today!

The person under the bridge then switches places with one of the bridge holders, and the game continues, repeating both verses.

See the London Bridge version of this game at <http://tinyurl.com/bridge-game-barney>

## Sing



### The More We Get Together

The more we get together,  
together, together,

The more we get together,  
the happier we'll be.

'Cause your friends are my friends,  
and my friends are your friends.

The more we get together,  
the happier we'll be!

### In Spanish:

Mientras más estemos juntos,  
juntos, juntos,

Mientras más estemos juntos,  
más felices seremos.

Tus amigos son los míos,  
y los míos son los tuyos.

Mientras más estemos juntos,  
más felices seremos.

Hear this song at <https://kidsongs.com/lyrics/the-more-we-get-together.html/>

## At your library...



Your librarian can help you find books in other languages at the public library, get them on loan from other Idaho libraries, or help you access them online.